

FCC Narrowbanding Mandate is Coming

**ARE YOU READY?**

**237:12:15:00**

Days Hours Mins Secs



----- State Information Technology Services Division -----



# What is Mandatory Narrowbanding

“Narrowbanding” refers to a requirement by the FCC that — **on or before January 1, 2013** — **all existing licensees** implement equipment designed to operate on channel bandwidths of **12.5 kHz or less** or that meets a specific efficiency standard . What this means is that licensees will need to convert their existing wideband (25 kHz) Systems to narrowband (12.5 kHz) operation.

# Why the Need to Narrowband

The UHF and VHF frequency bands are congested with limited spectrum available for system expansion or implementation of new systems.

# What is Narrowbanding?

The process of going to the FCC website and either changing or adding your existing frequency of 25kHz to one of 12.5kHz

**ANY EQUIPMENT that is not capable  
of operating on channels of  
12.5 kHz or less  
needs to be**

**REPLACED !**

# What if I don't Narrowband?

- “may subject licensees to enforcement action, including admonishments, monetary forfeitures, and/or license revocation, as appropriate.”
- Systems that fail to narrowband by the deadline could create interference or interoperability problems for systems that have narrowbanded
- Wideband equipment will not be available after January 1, 2013

# SWIC Office Initiatives

- Awareness
  - Building awareness of need via *Heard Across Montana (HAM)*, a bi-weekly electronic newsletter
- Outreach and Recognition
  - Presentations on Narrowbanding at regional meetings
  - Work with DES, the State's emergency management and homeland grant administrating agency
  - Links to Narrowband assistance web sites
  - Identify gaps in capabilities and performance
- Assistance with identifying external vendors
- Executive Appeal
  - Conducting workshops around the State



# Questions



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DOA/ITSD/SWIC Office

Narrowbanding Mailbox for the FCC: [narrowbanding@fcc.gov](mailto:narrowbanding@fcc.gov)

<http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/vhfuhf-narrowbanding-information>  
[www.fcc.gov/narrowbanding](http://www.fcc.gov/narrowbanding)

[http://www.aaacomm.com/fcc\\_licensing.htm](http://www.aaacomm.com/fcc_licensing.htm)

<http://www.npstc.org/narrowbanding.jsp>

<http://www.IMSAsafety.org>

